

Soldiers *Online*

Sharp Shooters

Photos by Paul Disney

THESE images, shot by Soldiers staff photographer Paul Disney before the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, depict two elements that became very well known after the terrorist assault — the determination, skill and professionalism of the Military District of Washington's Engineer Company, and the quiet patriotism that is an everyday fact of life in the nation's capital.



(Clockwise, from left)

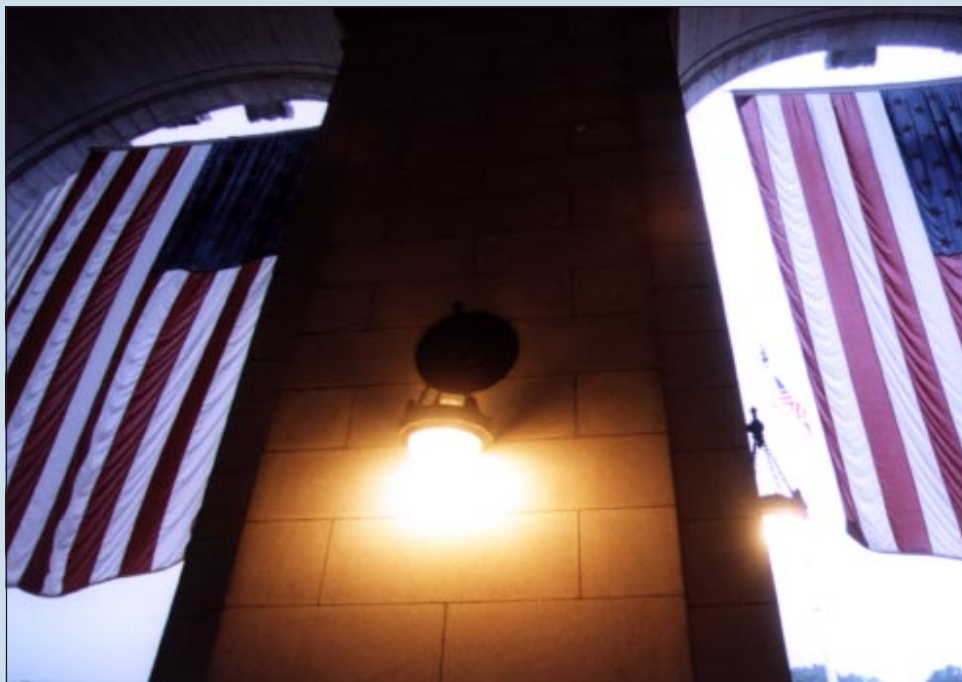
A member of the Fort Belvoir, Va.-based MDW Engr. Co. rappels from a tower during training at the post's Davison Army Airfield.

Another company soldier uses a hand-held circular saw to cut through sheet metal during an exercise. Members of the specialized active-duty unit put this and other skills to use during rescue and recovery operations at the Pentagon following the Sept. 11 attack.

American flags decorate Union Station in Washington, D.C., during last summer's Independence Day celebrations. Such patriotic displays became commonplace in the weeks following the terrorist assaults.

A visitor to the Lincoln Memorial cranes his neck in an effort to take in the landmark's vast facade. Attendance at the capitals many memorials soared in the weeks after Sept. 11.





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Other images — also taken before the Sept. 11 attacks — depict a capital city blissfully at peace, with the threat of war seemingly nowhere on the horizon.

(Clockwise, from at right)

Watermelon stands dotted the Mall in Washington, D.C., on July 4th.

A young visitor climbs the steps from the Mall Metro stop.

Fourth of July fireworks are reflected in the Vietnam Memorial.

Jazz musician Whop Frazier pauses before a show in Sterling, Va.

A child holds onto his mother as she plays the accordion during an impromptu religious concert on the Mall.



